Former Williams Air Force Base (AFB)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Highland High School
4301 E. Guadalupe Rd.
Gilbert, AZ

Attendees:

Mr. William Lopp	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE)/Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC)/Air Force Co-chair
Mr. Don Atkinson	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
Mr. Bob Peeples	ADEQ
Mr. Tom Zuppan	RAB Member
Ms. Beverly Selvage	RAB Member
Mr. Jim Holt	RAB Member
Mr. Scott Bouchie	RAB Member/City of Mesa
Mr. Dennis Orr	RAB Member
Mr. George Pettit	RAB Member/Town of Gilbert
Ms. Jean Humphries	RAB Member/Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic
Ms. Amber Cargile	Cargile Communications
Ms. Elspeth Sharp	URS Corporation
Mr. Ed Mears	BEM Systems
Mr. Jim Husbands	Booz Allen Hamilton

Mr. Lopp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed RAB members and asked attendees to introduce themselves. The RAB approved the August 2007 meeting minutes with two minor changes. Mr. Lopp then began the main presentation, which included updates of cleanup activities at several remediation sites.

The first site Mr. Lopp addressed was site ST012, the Former Liquid Fuels Storage Area. He said installation of the thermal-enhanced extraction (TEE) system at the site continues to progress, although the system is not operational yet. The Air Force discovered the TEE wells at the site had become filled with silt since they were originally installed in 2004. As a result, the Air Force purged the wells and replaced the pumps at each well. This unanticipated expense created a shortfall in operating funds that has delayed the start of the pilot study. Mr. Lopp said he expects to receive the necessary additional funding by February 2008 and anticipates starting the TEE pilot study at that time. Once the system is operational, the Air Force will schedule a

tour of the site for RAB members. Mr. Lopp discussed the new extraction well pumps that were installed in the wells at the site and explained that the new pumps contain new technology and are specifically designed to perform at deep sub-surface levels.

Mr. Holt asked if this delay would cause the plume of contaminants to migrate toward the rising water table. Mr. Lopp said that the Air Force continues to monitor the plume and there is no evidence the plume is moving at the site. Mr. Atkinson asked if the Air Force planned to start pumping any water at the site before February. Mr. Lopp replied that the entire operation will start when additional funding is received, which he estimates will occur in February 2008.

Next, Mr. Lopp and Ms. Sharp discussed the supplemental remedial investigation (RI) for site LF004, the Old Landfill. A briefing on the methodology and objectives of the RI was provided at the August 2007 RAB meeting. Mr. Lopp reiterated that the purpose of the RI is twofold. The first purpose is to locate a source responsible for the low levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) located in LF004 groundwater. The second purpose is to characterize the PCE and TCE groundwater plume at the southeast corner of LF004.

Mr. Lopp stated that sampling field work for the RI is nearly complete. He said the next steps will be to analyze the data for the RI report and then produce a feasibility study (FS) report. Next, a proposed plan will be developed and finally, a record of decision amendment (ROD-A) drafted for the site. This will involve a public meeting to present the selected remedy for the site and receive any public feedback. Mr. Lopp continued to say that sampling results from the RI have not identified a clear source of the TCE and PCE at the site. Most results have been either non-detects or below maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Mr. Zuppan asked what test methods were used for the deep soil gas, soil, and groundwater samples collected from the site. Ms. Sharp said that these samples were collected using a hollow-stem auger drilling rig and that the samples were sent to an independent laboratory for analyses. Mr. Lopp added that additional soil gas samples were collected at 20-foot intervals from the last two soil boring installed.

Mr. Holt asked why the middle boring along Pecos Road yielded low levels of contaminants while the two borings on either side did not detect any TCE or PCE. He asked whether this meant the TCE and PCE were naturally occurring. Ms. Sharp replied that TCE and PCE do not occur naturally. She added that the extremely low levels detected in the middle boring were so low that their concentrations had to be estimated and these results are not surprising.

Mr. Zuppan asked if the contaminants have migrated off the base boundary. Mr. Lopp said that there is no clear source for the contamination at LF004 and it's not clear that much, if any contamination has migrated off the old base boundary. He noted that additional wells should be installed along the southern boundary to determine if

contaminants have migrated beyond that boundary. He said that the cleanup team is considering how far off the base boundary to place monitoring wells. He said that new wells would act as sentry wells for the contaminant plume.

Mr. Zuppan asked about the anomaly of test results over time at well #W013. Mr Lopp noted that neither TCE nor PCE were ever detected at that well previously and that the Air Force is in the process of re-sampling the well.

Mr. Lopp said that in the past, groundwater sampling was conducted by purging three well volumes prior to sampling. However, the Air Force is now using passive diffusion bags (PDBs) as the sampling method. He said the cleanup team's goal is to create an improved monitoring well network so that anomalies and trends are easier to recognize. He added that the project has funds already programmed for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to install some new wells. Mr. Zuppan noted that soil gas can diffuse into groundwater and impact it and that deep monitoring for vapor-phase contaminants might be useful.

Mr. Bouchie asked if the Air Force sees any correlation of vertical test data across the site. Mr. Lopp said that they are noticing higher concentrations of contaminants near the water table. Mr. Bouchie asked if TCE and PCE tend to sink. Mr. Lopp said that the concentrations observed at LF004 suggest that the TCE and PCE are sorbed onto soil particles rather than existing as a liquid that would tend to sink.

Mr. Bouchie asked if the Air Force plans to install monitoring wells off base as part of the current investigating. Mr. Lopp said that there is no plan to install wells off base as part of the remedial investigation, but that the cleanup team will evaluate that need in the remedial investigation and feasibility study report. Mr. Bouchie asked when the RI report would be complete. Mr. Lopp said he expects the report to be developed in the spring of 2008.

Mr. Holt asked whether placing new wells in and around the landfill could risk liberating the source of the contamination. Mr. Lopp said there is always a chance of hitting something like a drum, but if that were to occur it would be recognized and cleaned up immediately.

Next, Mr. Lopp and Ms. Sharp presented an update to RAB members on soil removal at the Temporary Treatment Facility (TTF). The TTF was used to treat dieldrin-contaminated soil from site SS017, the Old Pesticide/Paint Shop. As briefed at the August 2007 RAB meeting, the soil was reclassified as non-hazardous waste by the Air Force and regulators. Mr. Lopp said that an estimated 8,500 tons of soil, treatment amendments and pad material was removed from the site and transported to Allied Waste Southwest Regional Landfill in November 2007.

Mr. Pettit asked when the Removal Action Completion Report for the TTF soils would be drafted. Ms. Sharp said she estimates it will be completed in February 2008.

Mr. Zuppan asked whether confirmation tests will be conducted to ensure no dieldrin remains in the soil located under the removed soils. Mr. Lopp said the Air Force will conduct confirmation sampling for dieldrin in the soil at the site. The results will be compared to the new Arizona soil remediation levels (SRLs) approved last May. If the results are above residential SRLs but acceptable for non-residential SRLs, then the parcel of land may require a non-residential declaration of environmental use restriction (DEUR) attached to it when it is transferred in the future.

Mr. Lopp then discussed plans to install a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system near Building 760. He said the groundwater benzene plume in the area of the former base service station has expanded over time, most likely resulting from rising groundwater. Mr. Lopp stated as the groundwater rises, it acquires benzene from the soil column. He said the recommended remedy is a combination of SVE and monitored natural attenuation (MNA). He said the SVE will be installed near the former location of the underground storage tanks and dispenser islands, where the initial fuel leak occurred. He added that the Air Force is working closely with ASU Poly, since the university's new building complex is under construction near the site.

Mr. Zuppan asked if there was any possibility of vapors entering the new buildings. Ms. Humprhies replied that ASU razed old buildings at the site before constructing the new complex. She said there were never any issues with vapors in the old structures, so ASU does not anticipate problems with the new buildings. Mr. Pettit asked where most of the contamination at the site is located?. Mr. Zuppan stated there was some contamination of soil at more shallow depths. Mr. Lopp said that the source of groundwater contamination is fuel residing in the soil and that the SVE plan calls for extracting vapors from various soil depths on the site. Mr. Husbands added that there may be some slanted borings for the SVE system, so that the operating radius will also treat the soil located underneath the new buildings.

Next, Mr. Lopp presented an update on the Parcel N Debris Area, which is located east of the landfill and TTF. He said the preliminary assessment and site inspection (PA/SI) Draft Work Plan for the Parcel Debris Area is in review. He expects the PA/SI field work to begin at the site in the spring of 2008.

The last topic presented by Mr. Lopp was the status of property transfer at the former Williams Air Force Base. He said that Facility 1013 was transferred in September 2007 and site SS021 was transferred in October 2007. Sites SS016, SS017, SS020, ST012 and FT002 are scheduled to be transferred in fiscal year 2008. Parcel N, is scheduled to be transferred in fiscal year 2009.

Ms. Cargile then covered action items from the August 2007 RAB meeting. She told board members that she e-mailed them a link to the new Air Force Real Property Agency Web site, where they can access information about the Agency, Base Realignment and Closure, as well as Williams Air Force Base. That site is located at http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afrpa/index.asp. She also suggested the board table the

action item to discuss the RAB tour at site ST012 until the February meeting, since the system will not be fully operational until that time.

Mr. Lopp wrapped up the meeting by reviewing action items and soliciting proposals for agenda items for the next RAB meeting.

Action items included:

- Schedule TEE system tour (Ms. Cargile/Mr. Lopp)

Two proposed agenda items were noted:

- Update on the TEE pilot study at site ST012
- Pertinent site updates, to include an update on site LF004

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next Williams RAB meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., at Highland High School.

Attachments:

1. November 27, 2007, RAB meeting agenda
2. November 27, 2007, RAB meeting Air Force slide presentation